

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03301 111220Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 SCEM-02 OMB-01 /157 W

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R 111155Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7642

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT FOR REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINS KU

SUBJ: STRIKE AT AMINOIL ENDS

REF: KUWAIT 3283

1. AMINOIL WORKERS UNION CALLED OFF TWO DAY LONG STRIKE LATE MONDAY, SEPT 10 AND WORK RESUMED AT AMINOIL AT 11:00 PM THAT DAY. DECISION CAME AFTER MEETING OF UNION REPS WITH ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE, SHAIKH SAAD. SAAD INTERVENED AFTER UNION MEMBER WAS SHOT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, IN CONNECTION WITH STRIKE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, VICTIM WAS SHOT BY ANOTHER AMINOIL EMPLOYEE WHO WAS CARRYING GUN ISSUED TO HIM BY COMPANY. AMINOIL GM, ISON, TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT EMPLOYEE, WHO IS PALESTINIAN, HAD VALID PERMIT FOR GUN ISSUED BY GOK. BOTH ISON AND PRESS REPORTED THAT SHOOTING WAS IN SELF-DEFENSE. IT APPEARS THAT AMINOIL EMPLOYEE WAS ATTEMPTING PROTECT HIMSELF FROM UNION HACKS, ONE OF WHICH, ACCORDING TO ISON, HAD BEEN RELEASED BY SECURITY

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03301 111220Z

AUTHORITIES PREVIOUS DAY AFTER BRIEFEST OF INTEROGATIONS FOLLOWING

ARREST FOR THREATENING EMPLOYEES WHO WERE NOT IN SUPPORT OF STRIKE.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SHAIKH SAAD, CHAIRMAN OF UNION ANNOUNCED THAT STRIKE WOULD BE SUSPENDED, AND SPOKESMAN FOR COMPANY SAID HE HAD FULL HOPE GOK WOULD BRING ABOUT COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BOTH SIDES IN THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND INTEREST OF COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT: GOK WAS PERTURBED, WE BELIEVE, BY UNION STRIKING AFTER GOVERNMENT LENT ITS PRESTIGE TO NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMINOIL AND UNION. HOWEVER, IN ITS JY CAUTIOUS MANNER, GOK APPEARS TO HAVE MADE LESS THAN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR COMPANY DESPITE PRESS REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 13 UNION MEMBERS WERE IN JAIL AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. SHOOTING INCIDENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MORE THAN GOVERNMENT WOULD COUNTENANCE AND STIFFENED ITS BACK. OUR GUESS IS THAT UNION MAY HAVE LOST A FEW POINTS WITH GOK OVER THIS STRIKE AND RELATED INCIDENTS. ON OTHER HAND, GENERAL FEDERATION OF KUWAITI WORKERS AND INDIVIDUAL UNIONS IN KUWAIT HAVE PLEDGED FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO AMINOIL WORKERS AND UNION'S STRENGTH IN PARLIAMENT AND AMONG BEDOUIN PROBABLY REMAINS INTACT. END COMMENT

5. OVER NEXT WEEK OR SO, WE SHALL ATTEMPT DISCUSS STRIKE WITH LOCAL OBSERVERS AND TRY DETERMINE WHAT LONG TERM RAMIFICATIONS LIKELY TO BE.
STOLTZFUS

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